



The Martha Messenger

Community Newsletter of the Martha T. Berry MCF

April 2010

Volume 17

Winter Is Past And Spring Is Here At Long Last



Introducing the MTB Billing Department Members

Most individuals don't enjoy sitting down to write checks or pay bills, yet it is something that must be done if the household is to run smoothly. MTB can be likened to a kind of giant household in which there are many items to order and bills to pay. Let's take a look at the people behind the financial scenes to become better acquainted with them and to learn about the specific work each does to keep MTB running smoothly.

Think of an item that's used in the daily operation of MTB...if it's a useful or necessary item and it's not edible, you can be sure it's the responsibility of **Lydia Thomas**. With the exception of food, Lydia orders and pays for just about everything needed here at MTB. She brings a wealth of experience in medical purchasing to the facility having previously served at the Detroit Medical Center and the St. John Medi-



Lydia Thomas says that her job can be hectic but never boring.

cal System. While Lydia now resides in Macomb Township, she was born in Detroit and spent her childhood there. She attended St Boniface and St. Vincent Elementary Schools, Murray Wright High School and Madonna University. She was a "middle child" in a family of seven with two brothers and four sisters. She fondly recalls visiting her grandmother and going fishing with "grandpa" when she was small. Present day interests include travel and reading. At work, Lydia is responsible for Accounts Payable. She summarizes her job as simply "purchasing items and then

paying for them." She says that her job provides an opportunity to meet interesting people and that it can sometimes be stressful or hectic but never boring. She has been with MTB for the past seven years.



Barb Bommarito always has a smile when she interacts with residents.

Barb Bommarito says that she played all the usual childhood games but that she especially enjoyed catching frogs when she spent time at the family cottage in Canada. She was the oldest child with a younger brother and younger sister. Barb grew up in Roseville and attended elementary and high school there. Her first work experience was at

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<p>Blue Cross Blue Shield in Detroit where she worked for eleven years before taking time off to raise her two children, a son and a daughter. At MTB, Barb's job involves verifying insurance coverage for the residents, overseeing Medicaid eligibility, and overseeing the resident trust fund. She feels that the residents consider her their "banker" and greets them with a smile when they come to her office for "spending money." She enjoys interacting with the residents, considering this the "fun part" of her job. Barb also fills in at the switchboard at times. When she is not at MTB, hobbies and interests include bowling, golfing, boating, and motorcycling. She is quick to point out that she is a motorcycle rider, not driver. Barb has been at MTB for the past five years.</p>	<p>past July. While Kris was born in Detroit, she grew up in Armada. She says that she was a bit of a "tomboy" as a child, playing ball, bike riding, and just running around with her two brothers. Kris attended the Armada elementary and high schools and went on to attend Macomb County Community College. She worked as an Administrative Assistant at Mount Clemens General Hospital for nine years prior to coming to MTB. Kris is kept busy by her three children, Emily 16, Tyler 11, and Conner 8 and her free time is often spent in "any activities the kids are doing." Reading has always been a favorite pastime for Kris and she tries to find time for reading in spite of her busy schedule. In addition to the switchboard, Kris handles the resident trust fund, something she really enjoys doing because it give her the opportunity to meet and to talk with the residents. She says that her job is "always interesting because there is always something interesting going on in the front lobby."</p>	<p>people and hearing their stories. She was born at St. Joe East in Mt. Clemens and grew up in Sterling Heights where she attended Barr Elementary and Stevenson High School. Perhaps Kathy's love of people comes from the fact she grew up in a big family the oldest of three sisters and two brothers. They did lots of childhood things together, played the usual childhood games, had a swimming pool which they greatly enjoyed and generally just had a good time together. Kathy was directed to her job at MTB by one of her high school counselors and has worked here for thirty four years.</p>
		
<p>The friendly voice you hear when calling MTB belongs to Kris Pierson.</p>	<p>Kathy Brunet is a "people person" and enjoys music as well.</p>	
<p>Anyone placing a day time call to MTB is pleasantly greeted by Kris Pierson who staffs the switchboard from 9:00 AM until 3:00 PM. Kris began working at MTB this</p>	<p>Music is one of life's great joys for Kathy Brunet. She enjoys all kinds of music...light rock, Motown, oldies, country, anything and in any form...listening and attending concerts as long as it's music. Her favorite song of all time is "Lucy In The Sky With Diamonds." Kathy is also a "people person" who enjoys meeting and interacting with</p>	<p>Kathy says that her job in the Business Office involves work with two different programs. With one program, she breaks down revenue into the proper account and in the other she takes the funds that come in and posts it against charges that the billers put in the system. In addition to working in the Business Office, Kathy often pitches in and spends some time at the</p>

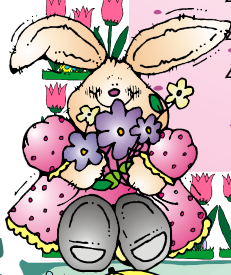
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<p>switchboard. Kathy states that she has to work because if she didn't, "she would just stay at home and watch movies and become a TV junkie." This way, instead of spending time watching old TV shows, she can spend time at MTB and enjoy meeting people. She also enjoys playing cards but above all, Kathy enjoys both music and people.</p>		
	<p>Jackie Savalle enjoys her job as Medicaid biller at MTB.</p>	<p>together. Jackie has held a number of jobs starting at McDonalds when she was a teen ager. Other positions include Immont where she drove a hi-lo and the Hickory Hollow Golf Course. She has been with MTB for eight years and she does Medicaid billing in the Business Office. She checks and bills for such things as number of days, room and board, and therapy sessions. When not at work, Jackie is the mother of three awesome kids, a boy and two girls. Her hobbies include bike riding, crafts, sewing, and ceramics. She is presently taking an "on line" course called "Business On Line." Jackie says that she really enjoys her work in the Business Office at MTB.</p>
<p>Jackie Savalle says she likes working at MTB because "she gets to work among friends, and has an enjoyable and friendly atmosphere in which to work." Jackie is a native Detroitter who also lived in Warren and in St. Clair Shores. She attended Walter Ruther Elementary and Cusino and St Clair High Schools. As a child, Jackie enjoyed the company of her six sisters and two brothers. She says that they all played together and enjoyed games like Monopoly, Sorry, kickball, tag and baseball. The family dog Duchess, a huge St. Bernard, was loved by all. The family also enjoyed going camping</p>		<p>games of baseball, kickball, running through fields and the park and just hanging out and having fun. She attended Our Lady of Good Council Grade School and graduated from Osborn High School in Detroit. Mary Ann has always had some kind of office job working as a co-op secretary in high school, and at several small offices as well as at AAA. She is proud of her four children, all of whom have attended college. At present, her daughter is studying Architecture in Poland, while one son is an engineer, another an accountant, and the third works in finance. Hobbies and free time interests include reading and visiting the family cottage up north where bike riding and snowmobiling are family favorites. Mary Ann has been with MTB since 1991 and says that she enjoys working in the Business Office because it is interesting work and that the people with whom she works are pleasant and helpful.</p>
	<p>Mary Ann Smart has worked in several kinds of office settings.</p>	<p>To date, the Martha Messenger has considered a number of specific departments and positions. Hopefully, the coverage given to each has emphasized the importance of every job and department in this facility. We all have value and each department has a specific contribution to make in the operation of MTB. Every job is a part of the mosaic that is the entire operation. Let's continue to support one another.</p>
	<p>Mary Ann Smart completes the staff trio in the Business Office and her special focus is Medicare A and B insurance billing. Mary Ann grew up in Detroit, the only girl in a family of three. As a child she played with her brothers and became a typical tomboy joining them in</p>	

Happy April Birthday To Our Residents

4-5 Camille Veznia
 4-8 Helen Frankhouse
 4-12 Clara Duff
 4-17 Scott Andrews
 4-22 Patricia Hyde
 4-22 Louise Schmidt
 4-23 Norma Collins
 4-24 Helen Lahti
 4-24 Arlene Schroeder
 4-27 Paul Weiss
 4-29 Mary Ozanich

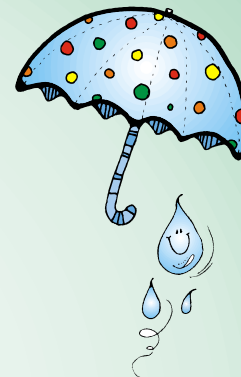
4-6 Marion Pater
 4-9 Rebecca Foskett
 4-12 Victoria Warren
 4-18 Adnan Bahri
 4-22 Margaret Bailey
 4-22 David Malkowski
 4-23 Benjamin Carter
 4-24 Marion Elmore
 4-26 Helen Kokal
 4-28 Jennie Mitchell

Best Wishes For A
 Wonderful Day



APRIL ACTIVITIES

4-1 FOOD COMMITTEE	2:00 PM
4-3 KING OF KINGS BINGO	10:30 AM
4-6 RESIDENT COUNCIL	2:30 PM
4-7 AUNT THERESA'S BINGO	10:30 AM
4-8 GOOD NEIGHBOR BINGO	7:00 PM
4-10 KING OF KINGS MUSIC GROUP	10:30 AM
4-13 KIMBERLY GRUBB	2:30 PM
4-13 TONY THE ACCORDION PLAYER AND BANJO DAN	7:00 PM
4-17 LIONESS BINGO	10:30 AM
4-20 BANJO PERFORMED BY JACK DALTON	2:30 PM



**4-29
 Pet-a-Pet
 Visits
 7:00 PM**



Featuring Two Of Our April Birthday Residents



Margaret Bailey and her sister, Pat.

Margaret Bailey was born in Ireland and lived there as a small child. When she was two and a half, her family came to the United States in search of a better life. Her dad settled his little family here and began looking for a way to support his wife and three children. He started a kind of trucking company that supplied and sold useful household items to other newly established families in the Hazel Park area. There were three children in the Agar family; Bill the oldest, Margaret the big sister and Pat the little sister. Margaret attended school and did well but the love of her life was the piano. She simply loved playing the piano and became involved in music and the choir at the local church. Margaret completed school and went to work as did most young women of the time. She found work as a secretary and it was at her place of employment that Margaret met her future husband, Bill. The couple married when Margaret was twenty three and soon she was a new mother taking care of her two daughters. She loved caring for her family and cooking good meals for

them. She was an excellent baker and there wasn't an item that Margaret could not turn out...cookies, cakes, pies, you name it. If it could be made by baking, Margaret could do it well. Her pies were extra special and she enjoyed making her husband's favorite, pumpkin, for him. One of her specialties was Mince Meat Squares to which she gave her own special touches and which were baked at Christmas time and for birthdays. In addition to caring for her family, Margaret volunteered at church by doing necessary jobs and singing in the choir. She spent many years as a volunteer at St. Joseph Hospital. She raised her daughters well and Cheryl became a nurse, Cyndi a school secretary. As Margaret's health failed, she was lovingly cared for by her family until it was no longer possible to provide the necessary degree of help at home. Margaret came to live at MTB in 2007. She enjoys sitting out in the hall, visiting with her husband and sister Pat and is content to be with them, surrounded with their love. Margaret has three granddaughters and a grandson, one great grandson and another great grandchild on the way. We wish you a blessed and happy birthday, Margaret.

Vicky Warren has a welcoming smile for everyone she passes as she moves through the facility. If you stop to chat, she will be glad to share some of her interests with you. She would tell you that she was born in Warren and attended school there. Vicky grew up with three



Vicky Warren loves Bingo, movies and chatting with visitors.

brothers and three step-sisters and enjoyed the usual childhood games with them. She loved Barbie dolls, enjoyed dressing them up and putting them in her huge Barbie play house. The family had two Beagles, Buddy and Birdie, and a friendly parakeet named Butch. The siblings loved to visit grandma's cottage in Anchor Bay where they had fun fishing and running over to the party store to buy the kind of penny candy that is no longer available. As a young adult, Vicky did housekeeping and baby sitting for a living. She was nanny to two little boys and looked after one of her nephews as well. Vicky loves all kinds of TV programs, but movies are her favorite. She is delighted with a beautiful new TV that her brother presented to her as a birthday gift. Vicky has been a resident of MTB for over seventeen years. She likes living here and says that Bingo is one of her favorite activities. Vicky is a real "working gal" since she proudly participates in an outside work program two days a week. Above all, she loves to chat and invites one and all to drop in to visit. A very happy birthday to you, Vicky!!!



Residents' Corner



Minutes of the Resident Council Meeting
by Laurie Richards

The Resident Council meeting was held on Tuesday, March 2nd, 2010 at 2:30 PM. The group collaborated in creating guidelines for the Resident Council Presidential Campaign and defined the roles for the Resident Council President and the Resident Council Vice President. The Council also discussed a second trip to the casino to be held in the near future. The Director of Nursing, Laura Brundirks, was also in attendance and addressed nursing and ADL care concerns and equipment suggestions. Other topics discussed include food selection for the Saint Patrick's Day party.

Thank you,

Laurie Richards



Carla Johnson



Klaudia Jameson

Congratulations to Carla Johnson and Klaudia Jameson who have been selected by the MTB residents as the Employees of the Month. Carla is a CNA on 2A and Klaudia works as a CNA on 3A. Residents say that Carla is always pleasant and friendly, that she is always willing to help, and that she has a great sense of humor. Claudia is described as a very accommodating person, one who is always there for you, and a very hard worker. Congratulations to you Carla and Klaudia and don't forget about your reserved parking space. You certainly deserve it!



Cyndi Says.....



Families and friends, please think of our residents when you do spring cleaning in your closets and storage areas. Many of their clothing items are transported to them from the laundry on hangers. As you know, hangers bend and break easily. If you have extra, unused hangers in your closets please bring them in when you visit. You can take them to Room 1215 in the Office wing where you will find a box in which to deposit them.

Thank you so very much!



**Friday, May 7th
8 AM until ??
Glenn Acre
Greenhouse
will be here with
hanging baskets, flowers
and bedding plants**



Mother's Day Craft & Vendor Extravaganza

**Wednesday, May 5th
9:00 AM to 4:00 PM**

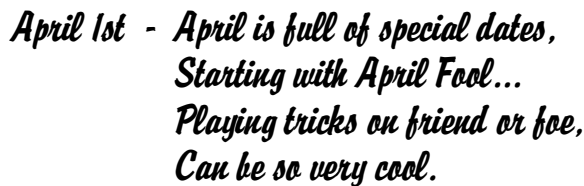
Rose bushes Jewelry
Soaps Lotions

Crochet Items and Much, Much More!



Joan Gaubeen Walter Bloom
Sophie Gusoff Marjorie Pair
Theodore Grzebinski
Robert Dubay
Sincere Sympathy Is Extended
To Family and Friends

April Poem *by Lenore Plowchan*



*April 2nd - 9s Good Friday, a religious observed day.
Many offices are closed to recognize in their own way.*

*April 4th - 9s Easter! Hear the choir sing.
Singers sing Alleluia! Hear the church bells ring.
Children look for the Easter bunny who brings lots of goodies,
Colored eggs, baskets, and don't forget the chocolate bunnies.*

*April 15th - This day can be good or bad because it's Income Tax Day.
We fill out complicated tax forms to find out refund or pay.*

*April also has showers. We need the rain, you know.
It brings up the water level and helps the flowers grow!*

★ **Family Members:** If you have moved or have changed your phone number, ★
★ please notify Social Services. It is important that your information is ac- ★
★ curate and up to date should it be necessary to contact you. Thank You ★

Welcome To Our New Residents

Teresa Ghinelli
Vincent Rogers
Geraldine Smith

Gregory Thomas
Virginia Blackford
Martha Tillier

Best Wishes To Those Who Have Returned Home

Julia Kruszewski
Darlene Bourque
Christopher Burguron
Rosemarie Wieczorek
Minnie Kushel
Sharon Paquin
Marlene Young
Helen Sepesi



*A Sincere Thank You To Our Sponsors, Who Through Their
Kindness and Generosity, Make the Martha Messenger Possible:*

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Pat Herman, Debbie Sutlon Mary Kelly Tom Murphy
Ketty Cueter Cathy Lesniak Auriele Ozga The Shendel Cousins
Susan Kozemko Ann Barraco Ceil and Arnie Brown Christine Kovich
The Family of Margaret Bailey Litho Printing
Thanks for giving us the gift of a monthly newsletter...*

Rita Shendel, editor



*This April issue of the Martha Messenger is late because the editor
was a bit under the weather. In order to even things out, the May
issue will be printed the second week of May and then, the June
issue should be back on track and printed at the beginning of the
month as usual. Thank you for your patience. Rita*